

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT, IN THE
NAME OF CONGRESS, A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
CROSS TO GEORGE F. THOMPSON

OCTOBER 7 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1869]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1869) authorizing the President to present, in the name of Congress, a Distinguished Service Cross to George F. Thompson, having considered the same report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the President to present, in the name of Congress, a Distinguished Service Cross to George F. Thompson, of the United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous bravery while serving as a private in the Marine Corps on the morning of July 18, 1918, at the Forest of Retz.

The Navy Department recommends the enactment of this bill, as is indicated in the letter from the Secretary of the Navy addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives which letter is hereby made a part of this report.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 27, 1943.

Hon. CARL VINSON,
*Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. VINSON: The bill (H. R. 1869) authorizing the President to present, in the name of Congress, a Distinguished Service Cross to George F. Thompson, was referred to the Navy Department by your committee with request for report thereon.

This bill would authorize the President to present, in the name of Congress, a Distinguished Service Cross to George F. Thompson, of United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous bravery while serving as a private in the Marine Corps on the morning of July 18, 1918, at the Forest of Retz.

George F. Thompson was born April 21, 1897, and enrolled as a private in the Marine Corps Reserve February 13, 1918, to serve 4 years. He embarked on board the U. S. S. *Henderson* April 23, 1918, for duty overseas and served ashore in France with the American Expeditionary Forces from May 7, 1918, to July 25, 1919, when he embarked on board the U. S. S. *George Washington* for return to the United States. Private Thompson transferred from the Reserve to the Regular Marine Corps September 5, 1919, and was honorably discharged therefrom upon expiration of enlistment February 12, 1922. He reenlisted in the Marine Corps September 9, 1922, and served until March 14, 1924, when he was honorably discharged upon report of a board of medical survey.

The records of the Navy Department show that as a member of the Forty-ninth Company, Fifth Regiment of Marines, Private Thompson took part in the attack against the enemy June 21 to June 26, 1918, in Bois de Belleau, Bouresches sector northwest of Chateau-Thierry; in the Allied drive against the Germans in the region of the Foret Domanilae de Retz, Chaudun and Vaux Castile; and September 12 to 15, 1918, participated in the American drive against the Germans in the region of Jaulny, France. The records further show him present as follows: Chateau-Thierry sector June 8 to July 9, 1918, Aisne-Marne offensive July 18 to 20, 1918, Marbache sector August 2 to 22, 1918, and St. Mihiel offensive September 12 to 22, 1918.

The records also disclose that George F. Thompson was recommended for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross for service in action during the World War, while serving with the Forty-ninth Company, First Battalion, Fifth Regiment, Second Division, American Expeditionary Forces. The citation reads as follows:

"Displayed unusual courage and devotion over and above the call of duty, upon the 18th of July 1918, in that he volunteered to attempt to silence a German heavy machine-gun firing, along the Villers Cotterets-Soissons Road, which machine gun was temporarily holding up the advance of the First Battalion of the Fifth Marines, Second Division. Armed with hand grenades, Private Thompson worked himself into a position flanking this gun, and from that position delivered his hand grenades upon it with such telling effect as to put it completely out of commission, killing or wounding its crew."

The bill H. R. 1869, if enacted into law, would involve no additional cost to the Government other than the price of the Distinguished Service Cross.

In view of the foregoing, the Navy Department recommends enactment of the bill H. R. 1869.

The Navy Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK KNOX.

